



Megan Fountain
New Haven, CT

Support for SB 21, SB 28 and SB 29

Dear Chairs and Members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee,

My name is Megan Fountain. I am a social worker and leader at ULA - Unidad Latina en Accion. We are a people-powered organization of neighbors, immigrants, and workers who come together to support each other and strengthen our democracy.

I also belong to Recovery For All. We come from all over the state of Connecticut – White, Black, Latino, from every zip code – and we believe:

No matter what we look like or where we come from, Connecticut can be a good place to live, where we can care for our families and neighbors, and create a better future for the next generations.

We are social workers, teachers, health care aides, janitors, factory workers, and more: The people who are pitching in every day. We're doing our part to make this state better. Today we are asking: Why are there exceptions for a handful of billionaires and wealthy corporations who think that they don't need to pitch in?

With SB 21, SB 28 and SB 29, you have an opportunity to fix a problem:

A greedy few have rigged the rules to take resources out of our communities and put those resources into their country clubs and private jets.

A handful of politicians try to divide us, saying that city people are taking away from suburban people. But we won't be divided. We know that ALL of us will thrive, no matter our zip code or our skin color, when wealthy corporations and billionaires pay what they owe to our state, to invest in good schools, health care, safety, families, early childhood education, food security, clean air, clean water, and all the things that we need to flourish.

I would like to share the story of Nicolas, one of the working people who is struggling right now. Nicolas has lived in New Haven and Hamden for two decades, paying taxes. He and his wife have worked in a factory for 21 years, but the factory does not provide health insurance.

Last year, Nicolas's wife went to the emergency room several times with gall bladder pain. The doctors said that she needed surgery, but when the hospital found out that she was uninsured and undocumented, they told her that they would not operate because it was not an emergency. They sent her home in a lot of pain, and this happened three times.

Now Nicolas is paying nearly \$400 a month for health insurance for his wife, plus \$4,000 in deductibles and copays. He is paying his children's medical bills. Even though his children qualify for Husky B, they can't qualify for Husky A, because supposedly the family income is too high.

Nicolas is living paycheck to paycheck. He is still suffering from the after-effects of COVID-19, but he can't stop working because he has to pay the mortgage on his house, the house taxes, and the medical bills.

Nicolas is doing his part. Can you imagine what our state would look like, if everyone contributed? I urge you to approve this legislation and rewrite the rules so that everyone contributes to make our state a place that we are proud to call home.

Thank you for listening to our testimonies and for working together with us to make a better future for everyone in Connecticut.